

## Southern Commercial Convention.

This body convened at Savannah on the 8th inst. and was called to order by Dr. Scriven, Mayor of the City, after a prayer was offered up by Rev. Bishop Elliott. Hon. Trench Tilghman, of Md., the chairman of the former convention, of which this is an adjourned meeting, not being present, the convention was organized by appointing Dr. Scriven, Temporary Chairman, and Mr. Thackston, of Petersburg, Temporary Secretary. A committee of one from each State was appointed to report permanent officers. There were representatives present from Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Maryland, Alabama, Louisiana, South Carolina, Texas and Florida.

The Committee on permanent organization reported for President, James Lyons of Va.; for principal Secretary, N. B. Cloud, of Alabama, with Vice Presidents and Secretaries from the several States, Mr. Parks, of Charlotte, being Vice President from North Carolina, and Mr. Yates, of the same place, Assistant Secretary. Mr. Dorch, of Goldsboro', was on the committee on organization. The Convention adopted, as far as practicable, the rules of the House of Representatives. The President was conducted to his seat by Messrs. McLeod, of Texas, Cochran, of Alabama, and Shaffer, of Virginia.

On taking his seat, the President made a short but eloquent address, acknowledging the compliment paid him, and referring to the objects of the convention, which were not those of dissolution but of union—a union to be secured by securing to the South that development and independence necessary to the full equality, without which no real union could long subsist. He alluded to the struggle through which the country had passed, and to the threats of agitation against our institutions still rife at the North.

On motion, Hon. A. Dudley Mann, of Washington, was invited to take a seat in the Convention as one of its members, and to take part in its deliberations. And, on further motion, the President was authorized to appoint a committee of 20 to report business for the action of the Convention. To this committee Mr. Mann was added, making it 21. The Convention adjourned until 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning.

Thus far we glean from the Savannah papers of the 9th, which are the latest that have reached us.—We are indebted to the courtesy of a friend from this place for the following letter, containing some additional items:

SAVANNAH, Ga., Dec. 9th, 1856.  
MESSRS. FULTON & PRICK, Gentlemen:—I think that you would be anxious to learn something relative to the business of the Convention, I have taken the liberty of writing you a letter, which is necessarily brief, because little or nothing has yet been done in the way of business.

You will learn through the papers I enclose you, that the Convention was organized on yesterday, and also the names of the officers, members of committees, &c. To-day has been consumed by resolutions of all kinds and on all subjects, from the re-opening of the slave-trade, to the admission of all editors in attendance on Convention as Secretaries of the meeting. I conceive that no subject of Commercial interest has as yet been introduced for the consideration of the Association.

The only thing in any definite shape that has been presented, was contained in the remarks of Hon. Mr. Behson of Georgia, relative to Free Trade—the abolition of the Custom Houses and duties on imports, and the substitution of direct taxation for the support of the General Government in all its branches. He is down upon all tariffs, and from them traces all of our commercial disasters, reverses and difficulties. He is a gentleman of talents and an honor to his State.

Our delegation is large, but will stand no comparison in numbers with the delegations from some of our sister States. We are all right—a say-nothing kind of fellows, but are "some" to keep in check any wild schemes of hot-headed extremists, and on hand at any time for anything that promises substantial good to the South.

The Convention is now fully organized. There are about six hundred delegates from all parts of the South, and more are arriving every day.

Again, let us say that we will have no hand in getting up undue excitement or ill-feeling in connection with the approaching municipal election. If such be gotten up, it will not be by the Democrats. For our own part we mean to make no other reply to the existing articles of the Herald on the proceedings of the Legislature than is contained in a publication of the whole laws complained of. They will be found, every word of them in our paper to-day.—To them we point the public as the best answer to all such talk.

The now existing law is better in every way than abortive registration law, more efficient in guarding the purity of the elective franchise and securing the rights of all. It dispenses with no necessary precaution, and allows of the neglect of no necessary duty. Read the thing over and think over it. Remember that the registration law was no public safeguard. The registry book, after being closed was not made public in any way tending to the detection of errors or illegal entries. Where, in crowded cities divided into wards, registration is a necessity, the list of registered voters in each ward or precinct is printed and stuck up for inspection during election day and before. Not so with our registration law. With all the entries on its face, correct or incorrect, it goes, or went, to the polls, unrevised and unexamined, so far as the public was concerned and really formed little or no safe-guard; nothing equal to the existing law requiring six months residence. Under the existing law, town taxes must be paid. That is as essential to voting now as before.

As for the Inspectors, it is hardly worth while making a fuss about that, since it is nothing new, but simply restoring the old order of things which existed before the passage of a class of laws of which nobody knew anything until long after they had passed.—Until a sort of special legislation changed things, the appointment of Inspectors had always been vested in the County Court. It is now placed back there again.

This excitement and warmth is so far all on one side. The Democrats keep cool, perhaps too much so. At any rate, they are not going to squabble or huddle over things. They are content with assigning the reasons for any course they may pursue and leaving the public to decide. So far their opponents beat the air.

OUR MINISTER TO NICARAGUA.—We see it stated in some of the papers that Hon. John H. Wheeler, our Minister to Nicaragua, had been preemptorily recalled. The fact is, that as matters now stand, our government has declined to receive any Minister from Nicaragua, not knowing which of the contending parties there, is the *de facto* ruling power, and, of course, not receiving any Minister, could not send any or keep any there, not knowing to which of the parties he ought to be accredited. It is thus, and not on any personal grounds that Col. Wheeler is recalled, if he is so.

THE COUNTY COURT for this county commenced its session this morning, James T. Miller, Esq., presiding. M. B. Smith, Esq., was duly qualified and entered upon the discharge of his duties as County Solicitor.—Daily Journal of the 8th inst.

THE COUNTY COURT Wednesday chose Robert Maxwell and James T. Morris, Inspectors of Timber and Lumber, and P. M. Walker and James M. Stevenson, Inspectors of Flour and Forage.

A POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL.—Some days since we received from Messrs. E. J. Hale & Son, editors of the Fayetteville Observer, a very neatly printed pamphlet, gotten up for gratuitous distribution; the object of the writer being to urge upon the people of the State, the establishment of a School in this State of the same character with U. S. Military Academy at West Point.

The idea of such Schools is education in contradiction to mere teaching. It is their object practically to educate, to draw out, the individual, not simply, for instance, to teach him engineering, but to make him an engineer; not merely to drill him as a soldier, but to make him submit to the discipline, the restrictions and the wholesome privations of soldiership.

So far as we have examined the subject, the opinion we have been led to form is highly favorable, and we trust that an act of incorporation will be passed by the Legislature now in session. The plan advocated by the author of the pamphlet, contemplates the formation of a joint stock company, with a capital of \$200,000.

It has always been one of our hobbies to get something better substituted for the very defective militia system of the State; a system which cannot, from the nature of things, either infuse a military spirit into the people, or impart to them any acquaintance or familiarity with military tactics. We have, at various times, recommended the substitution of a small tax, to be collected as other taxes are, in place of the troublesome and expensive muster. Troublesome it certainly is, and expensive it certainly must be to every good member of society who has something to attend to, and with whom time is money. We think there are few who would not sooner pay a dollar a year than be bothered by militia duty or subjected to militia fines. From this tax a fund might be raised for the encouragement of volunteer companies, and the maintenance of an institution whence an acquaintance with military tactics and practical science, as applied to military or civil life, might be diffused over the State.

The author of the pamphlet before us, figuratively—for actually somebody has carried it off—but the pamphlet under consideration, unquestionably exhibits a degree of familiarity with his subject far beyond anything to which we can lay claim. Still, we think that the feature of making it, in some measure, a State institution, might be profitably added to his scheme, while a way is pointed out by which the necessity of imposing additional burdens on the people may be avoided with advantage.

STOCK GAMBLING.—The failure of Jacob Little & Co., in New York, and the Henshaws in Boston, is an exemplification of the system of gambling in stocks. These are stock-broking firms. They made contracts to deliver millions of worth of stocks at some future day at a certain rate per share, amounting in truth to a bet that such stocks would not rule at such a time above such rates, for in such transactions no stocks really pass, but the difference between the contract price and the actual price is alone paid. Had the stocks gone down below the specified rates, then the deliverers would have received the difference. It turns out that they have gone up, and consequently the deliverers will have to pay. This, these parties cannot do.

The worst of this gambling is that the man who contracts to deliver, say a million's worth of stock three months after the sale, at a certain rate, immediately goes to work to cry it down and injure its credit, and he who is to receive it goes to work to puff it up. The result is that the property of bona fide holders is thus exposed to the machinations of mere gamblers, who have only a speculative interest, and do not own a share by way of investment.

The Exports of the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1856, exceed those of the previous year, \$73,586,916. The net imports exceed those of the previous year by \$64,083,161. The net exports of specie for 1856, were \$41,536,863; for 1855, they were \$2,500,529.

The classification of the Domestic Exports of the country is singularly interesting for the magnitude of the great staples, and by comparison with the previous year:

	1856.	1855.
Cotton	\$128,382,351	\$88,143,344
Bread and Provisions	77,157,301	36,686,131
Tobacco	12,221,843	14,712,468
Rice	2,382,223	1,717,953
Product of the Sea	3,356,727	3,516,894
Of the Forest	10,694,184	12,603,337
Of Fats and Miscel.	82,300,352	35,360,108
Total	\$266,438,051	\$192,751,293

THE RALEIGH REGISTER.—We learn from the Standard that the Register establishment, exposed to public sale in Raleigh on Friday last, was bid off for John W. Syme, Esq., of the Petersburg Intelligencer, at \$5,100. Mr. Syme is expected to take personal charge of the paper some time next month.

Mr. Syme has had long experience and has acquired an enviable reputation in his profession, as a genial and gentlemanly editor, generally speaking devoid of personal bitterness, and eschewing personalities.

CONGRESS.—The proceedings of the Senate and House of Representatives on the 8th inst., consisted of attacks upon the President's Message by the Republicans and defence of it by the Democrats.

In the Senate, Mr. Bigler, of Pennsylvania, made an elaborate and interesting speech in support of the views of the message, and in vindication of the position taken by the Pennsylvania Democracy. Messrs. Wade, Trumbull and Collamer, spoke on the other side. In the House of Representatives, L. D. Campbell, of Ohio, made the main onslaught on the message, and on the Democrats generally.

No business was done in either house. Perhaps, since gentlemen must go through this talk, it is better that they should say their say at once, and then they may get to work, relieved of the matter with which they were charged.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMER ARAGO.—New York, Dec. 5.—The steamer Arago, from Havre, with dates from that port to the 19th, and dates from Coves to the 20th ult., arrived here at noon.—She brings \$45,000 in specie. She passed, on the 25th of November, in lat. 40 38, long. 34 10, the United States steamer Fulton.

The Arago brought the crew of the brig Maine, of Boston, which foundered at sea, Oct. 16, while on the passage from Franklin, La., to Portland. They were rescued and taken to Havre by the ship Joshua Mauran, from Mobile.

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SERIOUS CHARGE.—New York, Dec. 5.—Two brothers doing a brokerage business in Chatham street, under the name of Taylor & Brother, have been arrested on the charge of being extensive dealers in counterfeit money.—Thirty thousand dollars in spurious bills of banks in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, were found on their premises.

THE ALABAMA RIVER BOOMING.—It has been raining almost incessantly for the last two or three days, and it is unnecessary to add that the river is now in admirable boating order—in fact there seems to be a superfluity of water every where. The "Creek" will doubtless refuse to remain within its "pent-up" Uica any longer than to-day.

[Mont. Advertiser, Tuesday.]

SNOW.—Sunday, about noon, or a little before, we noticed a few "spits" of snow, hardly enough to be generally observed, but sufficient to establish the fact that there was snow about. We feel pretty certain that there was plenty of it not far to the North of us, and most probably also in the same latitude with ourselves, but further inland.

We notice that on the 2nd inst. a terrible snow storm swept over the great lakes, especially Lake Michigan. Two brig and a schooner were wrecked in sight of Milwaukee, but the crews saved. Snow fell in many places to the depth of six feet. The railroads are blocked up, and the trains behind time.—The frost was heavier here last night than we recollect to have seen it before Christmas. It is proportionably cold North, and everything points to an early and severe winter.

OF course the vote is now cast, and the votes of 174 electors cast for Mr. Buchanan. Although, in fact, the election of the 4th ult. decided the matter, and made Mr. Buchanan the President elect of the United States; yet, in law, no election of President took place until the first Wednesday in December, when the votes of the electoral colleges were cast; as the electors might legally have cast their votes for any eligible parties, although, of course, nobody expected that they would do so in any other manner than as they were elected to do.

The European press does not like the result. It would have been much better pleased had either Fillmore or Fremont been chosen. It can't be helped.

PENNSYLVANIA FINANCES.—The receipts into the Treasury of Pennsylvania, for the Fiscal year ending Nov. 30th, 1856, were, \$5,378,240 33; the payments at the Treasury for the same period of time were \$5,377,142 22. Of these payments \$1,943,896 82, was on account of public improvements, being for the completion of works commenced long ago, but suspended on account of the stringency of the times. Interest on public debt absorbed \$2,047,955.80. The amount paid by the State to Common Schools was \$199,715, but little greater than that distributed by the State of North Carolina.

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[Mont. Advertiser, Tuesday.]

From our Raleigh Correspondent.

RALEIGH, Dec. 6, 1856.

SENATE.—The Senate did not assemble until after 11 o'clock. There was no business of any interest transacted after the reading of the journal, until they left the Senate Chamber for the House. On their return they immediately adjourned until Monday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—After the presentation of reports from the Standing Committees, the following bills were introduced and referred to the appropriate committees:—  
Mr. Little, a bill defining the boundaries between Richmond and Montgomery counties. Mr. Hancock, a bill providing for the election of a Special Magistrate for the county of Rowan, to be resident in Salisbury. Mr. Routh, a bill to extend the corporate limits of the city of Raleigh.

A communication from the President and Directors of the North Carolina Railroad Company was, on motion of Mr. Erwin, sent to the Senate, with a proposition to print.

The Free Suffrage Bill, being the special order of the day, was taken up and passed its third reading—yeas 98, nays 5. The Speaker having announced the final passage of the bill by a constitutional majority, Mr. D. F. Caldwell rose and recorded his solemn protest against the measure, which caused some amusement among the members.

A communication from the President of the Commercial Bank of Wilmington was sent to the Senate with a proposition to print.

A number of engrossed bills were received from the Senate, and passed their first reading.  
On motion of Mr. Hill, of Halifax, the engrossed bill providing for the distribution of the public lands was read the second and third times and passed.

At 12 o'clock, the Senators, preceded by their Speaker and Chief Clerk, entered the House, and, being seated on the Speaker's right, the Speaker of the Senate presiding, tellers were appointed, and the counties called over alphabetically. The official returns give Bragg 57,098; Gilmer, 44,972; Bragg's majority, 12,126. The Senate then returned to their chamber.

After which the House adjourned.

RALEIGH, Dec. 8, 1856.  
SENATE.—Mr. Coleman, from the Judiciary Committee, reported favorably on the bill dividing the State into eight judicial districts.

On motion of Mr. Speight, the door-keepers were ordered to furnish the reporters with copies of all bills and other matters ordered to be printed.

A message was sent to the House, transmitting the Public Treasurer's report, enclosing several Bank reports.

The following bills were introduced and referred to the appropriate standing committees:

Mr. Coleman, a bill to repeal the 9th section of the bill incorporating the French Broad Railroad.

Mr. Wilder, a bill to re-charter the Bank of the State.

Mr. Houston, a bill to increase the pay of members of the General Assembly and the clerks thereof.

[This bill repeals the present law fixing the pay of members, and provides for paying the Speaker \$400, and the members \$300 per session, with \$5 per day for extra session.]

Mr. Thomas, of Jackson, a bill to amend the charter of the Turnpike and Alleghany Turnpike Company.

Mr. Thomas, of Jackson, a resolution in favor of David Taylor and Elizabeth Welch.

Mr. Brogren, a bill to emancipate Sam and Susan.

The bill to establish the county of Alleghany was taken up. Messrs. Eaton, Cameron, and Pool, opposed the bill, which was defended by Messrs. Coleman, Bryant, Christian, Ramsey, Dockery, and J. W. Thomas. The bill was rejected—yeas 17, nays 25.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—The Speaker presented a communication from the Public Treasurer, enclosing reports from the Bank of the State of North Carolina, and the Banks of Wadesboro' and Washington.

Mr. March, of Davie, was qualified, and took his seat.

Mr. Gilliam introduced a resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the expediency of providing for the searching of vessels trading between this State and Northern ports, to prevent the escape of slaves.

Mr. Badham introduced a resolution that no bill, requiring an appropriation or endorsement of State bonds, shall be passed until after the House shall receive the report of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Badham made some forcible remarks on the necessity of economy, and stated that the public mind had undergone a change in respect to internal improvement.

The Speaker decided that, under the rules of the House, the resolution should lie over one day. Mr. Badham appealed from the decision, but afterwards withdrew it. The resolution lies over.

Mr. Stubbs introduced a bill to give Courts of Equity jurisdiction in certain cases of disputed boundaries.

Mr. Reeves introduced a bill to open Yadkin river to the passage of fish.

The bill to aid in the construction of the Western Railroad was taken up. Mr. Badham moved to lay it on the table. By leave of the House, Mr. Shepherd vacated the Chair, and made one of his happiest efforts in favor of the bill. It was an eloquent, able and argumentative appeal in favor of the bill, and the Southern country had a bearing on the subject. The speech fully sustained that high character which made Mr. Shepherd the unanimous choice of the Democratic party for his present position.—Mr. Tomlinson bore witness to the former prosperity and the present distressed state of Fayetteville; after which the bill was made the order of the day on Friday next.

After the final passage of some private bills, the bill granting the public lands in Watuga county, for the construction of roads, was read the third time. Amendments to insert other counties were voted down and the bill passed—yeas 58, nays 38.

A few bills, formerly noticed on their second reading, were then read the third time, and sent to the Senate.

After which the House adjourned.

RALEIGH, Dec. 9th, 1856.

SENATE.—Several reports were presented from the standing committees.

A motion, by Mr. Christian, to reconsider the vote by which the bill to create a new county named Alleghany was defeated yesterday, was, after some debate, rejected.—Yeas 16, nays 28.

The Committee on Internal Improvements reported favorably on the following bills:

A bill to amend the charter of the Charlotte and Fayetteville Plank Road. A bill to amend the charter of the Turnpike and Alleghany Turnpike Company. A bill to amend the charter of the Turnpike and Alleghany Turnpike Company. A bill to amend the charter of the Turnpike and Alleghany Turnpike Company.

Mr. Thomas, of Jackson, introduced a bill to authorize Turnpike and Plank Road Companies to use stone and gravel in the repair of their roads.

On motion of Mr. Battle, the bill to make the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad the line between the counties of Nash and Edgecombe, was referred to the Committee on Propositions and Grievances.

Mr. Houston presented a report from the Committee to whom it had been referred, in favor of the bill concerning the inspection of Turpentine.

On motion of Mr. Cunningham, the bill granting a right for a U. S. Hospital, was taken up, and the rules being suspended, the bill was read the second and third times and passed.

A message was received from the House, with reports from the directors of the Western N. C. Railroad, and the Directors of the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company. A bill to amend the charter of the Western Plank Road Company, and a bill to amend the charter of the Turnpike and Alleghany Turnpike Company, were also presented.

The bill to incorporate the town of Salem, was read second and third times and passed.

The bill to lay off the State into eight judicial districts, was made the order of the day for Thursday next.

Mr. Brogren introduced a bill to incorporate the Bank of Goldsboro'.

The following bills passed their second reading:

A bill to amend the charter of the Wilmington Savings Bank. A bill to amend the charter of the Western Plank Road Company. A bill to amend the charter of the Turnpike and Alleghany Turnpike Company.

On motion of Mr. Speight, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—I regret being unable to attend this day's proceedings in the House, but I will supply the deficiency to-morrow, and endeavor to avoid a similar disappointment.

For the Journal.

RALEIGH, Dec. 9, 1856.

On Friday night the Executive mansion was crowded by the beauty and talent present as embodied in Raleigh. Governor and Mrs. Bragg issued cards of invitation for that evening. The numbers that responded to the call proved how deep the popularity of our Governor has pervaded all classes of society. Party lines were forgotten; political bickering hushed, and the rich and the poor assembled to pay their respects to the most popular Governor of the State. The Governor, "upon hospitable thoughts intent," had profusely provided for the enjoyment of all.—Spiriting music for youthful hearts who love the merry dance—rich sparkling wines flowed freely, drawing forth impromptu flashes of wit and humor; and rich rewards to tempt the taste of those who prefer the luxuries of life to its necessities. Mrs. Bragg received her numerous guests with grace, urbanity which won the admiration of those present, and added to the happiness of all. In one saloon the "beautiful and brave" passed the flying hours in the exhilarating waltz and the graceful cotillon; in another, the melting strains of a beautiful songstress gathered around her a charmed auditory—even the votaries of Bacchus paused in their libations to the rosy god to listen with breathless attention, to the thrilling strains of the waltzing queen.

But the supper table was the crowning glory of the night. Few, very few, State Capitals could match the dazzling array of beauty which surrounded it, and met the bewildered eye on every side. The delighted guests lingered long around it, and the "small hours" of the morning were passed before they tore themselves away. Memory will ever cherish this festive scene, and feel grateful to our talented Governor and his accomplished lady for the fleeting but happy hours spent in their hospitable mansion.

LEBO.

For the Journal.

RALEIGH, December 9th, 1856.</